

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN HONOR OF SARAH HUGHES—LADIES FIGURE SKATING OLYMPIC GOLD MEDALIST, 2002

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 27, 2002

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate my constituent and America's newest sweetheart, Sarah Hughes, on her spectacular gold medal performance at the 2002 Winter Olympics.

On February 21, 2002, Sarah, a 16-year-old high school junior from Great Neck, New York, accomplished the unimaginable. After years of training and dedication, Sarah skated a flawless performance that included seven triple jumps with two triple-triple combinations. Sarah said that she wasn't skating for a gold medal that night, she just wanted to do her best. And that she did. While many discounted her chances, Sarah's long program left the world awestruck and moved her from fourth place to capture the gold medal ahead of the top skating competitors in the world.

It's not every day that Great Neck produces a gold medalist. Sarah is our hometown hero. Local supermarkets, stores, delis and police stations all proudly display signs of congratulations to Sarah. If you stop the people on the street, everyone has a smile and only praise to share about Sarah Hughes. In addition to being a gold medalist, Sarah is a top student at Great Neck North High School, who despite spending hours training to be an Olympic gold medalist, also attends a full schedule of class and maintains a straight-A average.

Last Thursday night, I had the pleasure to watch Sarah's performance on the big screen with her supporters at Great Neck House, the area's community center. The atmosphere was thick with excitement and the moment Sarah was awarded the gold was a moment I will never forget. To continue the celebration, on March 3rd at 11 a.m., Great Neck will welcome Sarah home with a parade through the center of town.

From her back, yard skating rink to the Olympic stadium, Sarah Hughes has captured the hearts of the American people. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to honor Sarah for her magnificent performance at the 2002 Winter Olympics. I ask all my colleagues in the House of Representatives to please join me in congratulating Sarah as an Olympic gold medalist.

TRIBUTE TO DAN TANG

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 27, 2002

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a constituent of mine, Mr. Dan Tang, who was recently featured in the Rocky

Mountain News for his success as an entrepreneur in the restaurant business. Mr. Tang's story reminds us that perhaps no one enjoys the fruits of the opportunity that America has to offer as much as those who have never had the luxury of taking it for granted.

Over twenty years ago, having heard countless stories of how much our great country has to offer, Mr. Tang bravely escaped communist China with the hope of one day becoming an American citizen. He spent nearly a year in extremely harsh conditions at a refugee camp in Canton awaiting permission to come here. Thankfully, Mr. Tang had relatives in Los Angeles who were able to give him a floor to sleep on, and a roof over his head when he finally received permission to enter the United States.

As an immigrant who spoke no English, he had a life-sustaining dream to overcome the obstacles he faced and move to Colorado. In Colorado he was able to get a job as a dishwasher in an American-owned Chinese restaurant. He worked tirelessly, learned English, and moved up the ladder of the restaurant business, eventually becoming a chef. Recognizing Mr. Tang's talent, a Colorado restaurant owner took him under his wing and taught him the financial side of the business. This knowledge and experience enabled Mr. Tang to purchase his first restaurant, "Heaven Dragon." The restaurant is one of the most popular and successful restaurants in my district and has enabled Mr. Tang to buy a second restaurant nearby, "Pearl Wok". He is a leader in the Chinese-American community of Colorado, a successful businessman, a friend to the Governor of Colorado, and an example of how the so-called "American dream" is still a reality.

Mr. Speaker, at a time in our country's history when many are skeptical of the enormous contribution that immigrants and their families make in contributing to the success of America and strengthening our communities, I am encouraged by the example of Dan Tang.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Dan Tang's story to this House and to my colleagues for the inspiration it evokes, and for a reminder of what it is to be an American.

[From the Rocky Mountain News, Feb. 20, 2002]

FEEDING THE AMERICAN DREAM

(By Marty Meitus)

Fourteen people. One rusty old boat. A harrowing glide down the river to Macau, then a Portuguese colony more than 100 miles from the farm near Canton, with two toddlers to keep quiet.

If the boat went toward the shore, Dan Tang says, they would cover the children with a blanket to make it look as if they were transporting something. If the boat had sprung a leak and sunk, or if the children had cried out at the wrong moment, Tang and company would have risked prison and a steep fine.

"It was pretty scary," he says in his heavily accented English.

Tang, owner of the Heaven Dragon restaurant, a hidden treasure tucked away in a strip mall in Thornton, has been asked to tell the tale of his escape from communist

China over and over since he arrived in this country 20 years ago. The affable 40-year-old is given to easy laughter, taking pleasure and pride in his pretty restaurant.

In honor of the Chinese, New Year, which began Feb. 12 and lasts 15 days, we talked to Tang about his journey toward the American dream.

Tang's father was a rice and yam farmer in Canton; his mother was a housewife. He and his five brothers slept in the same bed in their two-bedroom wood-and-dirt house. Needed in the fields, he attended school only to fifth grade. The family never rose above the poverty level, restricted by a government that confiscated most of their earnings and limited their activities.

In 1980, hearing that fortunes could be made here, Tang decided to leave China for the United States. "They (his parents) let me try it to escape to freedom," he says. "The government limited what you could do. You had to escape, because there were no travel visas; you had to get permission to go from city to city."

In Macau, he stayed in a refugee camp for 11 months, under rough conditions, while he waited for his visa to come through. His goal was to reach his aunt, his father's sister, who lived in Los Angeles.

Eventually, he was granted permission to leave. He lost sight of the other 13 people on the boat, although he knows that a couple of them immigrated to Canada. "We were lucky," he says. "I know people who tried to get out four or five times."

In Los Angeles, he slept in his aunt's dining room, hoping to break into the restaurant business, one of the few fields open to an immigrant who spoke no English. Struggling to survive, he finally moved to Colorado, where he had friends, and went to work for Americans who owned a Chinese restaurant in Aurora.

His experience with cooking was limited. "The first time I saw a grocery store in the U.S., I'm in paradise," he says.

He worked his way up from dishwasher to prep cook to deep-fry cook to chef, moving around the metro area to 10 restaurants in all. Then an American businessman took him under his wing and taught him the restaurant business, enabling Tang to buy Heaven Dragon in 1985.

Tang has brought all his family except two brothers to America, and they should be allowed to come in the next couple of years. The family includes his wife, Ying Li, the woman chosen to be his bride by his parents in an arranged marriage. When he brought her over as an adult for their wedding, he hadn't seen her since she was 9. "When she got off the plane," he says, "I didn't recognize her, except a little bit."

Choosing his own wife would have been out of the question. "We still have old culture, so I wouldn't even think of not doing it," he says. But all's well that ends well. He and Ying Li have been married for 11 years and have three children: Victor, 10, Tracey 8, and Audrey, 7.

Tang has been successful enough to open a second restaurant, the Pearl Wok, at West 120th Avenue and Sheridan Boulevard. Although he'd like to have more free time to devote to learning English and he regrets never being able to return to school, the restaurant life has been its own education. "If you work hard," he says, "you get rewarded."

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

CELEBRATING THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WOODLAND CHRISTIAN CHURCH IN HOUSTON, TEXAS

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 27, 2002

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the Woodland Christian Church in Houston, Texas, which will celebrate its 70th Anniversary on March 2, 2002. Truly a milestone occasion, this celebration is a testament to the outstanding dedication and commitment of the entire church and community.

The Woodland Christian Church was organized on March 2, 1932 as Woodland Heights. It has been located on its present site in North side Houston for almost 45 years and has an active congregation of 125 people. Throughout its history, the church has provided a caring, loving environment and has faithfully ministered to the spiritual needs of its members. It has been a source of hope and comfort in times of distress, and its Christian ministry has been one of outreach to the homeless and day laborers.

The members of this church have operated a day care center and are active in a lunch program four days a week, providing sack lunches three days and a hot meal one day. Pastor Virzola Law, a new minister at Woodland Christian Church, has continued to give her endorsement and support to the ministry for the homeless.

Situated in a low-income neighborhood, the Woodland Christian Church has been very active in the community assisting single mothers, transients, and other people in need. It has also sponsored two homes for senior citizens and disabled people, Woodland Christian Towers and Pecan Grove Manor. By their actions, the congregation of the Woodland Christian Church and its pastor have proven their commitment and dedication for others. This is also the church in which my wife, Helen, and I were married in 1970.

Seventy years is a milestone, and that is why Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to help me recognize this truly remarkable church. We congratulate you on your many good works, and we wish you seventy more years of dedicated service.

INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 27, 2002

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce legislation to withdraw the United States from the Bretton Woods Agreement and thus end taxpayer support for the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Rooted in a discredited economic philosophy and a complete disregard for fundamental constitutional principles, the IMF forces American taxpayers to subsidize large, multinational corporations and underwrite economic destruction around the globe. This is because the IMF often uses the \$37 billion line of credit provided to it by the Amer-

ican taxpayers to bribe countries to follow destructive, statist policies.

For example, Mr. Speaker, the IMF played a major role in creating the Argentine economic crisis. Despite clear signs over the past several years that the Argentine economy was in serious trouble, the IMF continued pouring taxpayer-subsidized loans with an incredibly low interest rate of 2.6 percent into the country. In 2001, as Argentina's fiscal position steadily deteriorated, the IMF funneled over 8 billion dollars to the Argentine government.

According to Congressman JIM SAXTON, chairman of the Joint Economic Committee, this continued lending over many years sustained and subsidized a bankrupt Argentine economic policy, whose collapse is now all the more serious. The IMF's generous subsidized bailouts lead to moral hazard problems, and enable shaky governments to pressure the IMF for even more funding or risk disaster.

Argentina is just the latest example of the folly of IMF policies. Only 4 years ago the world economy was rocked by an IMF-created disaster in Asia. The IMF regularly puts the taxpayer on the hook for the mistakes of the big banks. Often times, Mr. Speaker, IMF funds end up in the hands of corrupt dictators who use our taxpayer-provided largesse to prop up their regimes by rewarding their supporters and depriving their opponents of access to capital.

If not corrupt, most IMF borrowers are governments of countries with little economic productivity. Either way, most recipient nations end up with huge debts that they cannot service, which only adds to their poverty and instability. IMF money ultimately corrupts those countries it purports to help, by keeping afloat reckless political institutions that destroy their own economies.

IMF policies ultimately are based on a flawed philosophy that says the best means of creating economic prosperity is through government-to-government transfers. Such programs cannot produce growth, because they take capital out of private hands, where it can be allocated to its most productive use as determined by the choices of consumers in the market, and place it in the hands of politicians. Placing economic resources in the hands of politicians and bureaucrats inevitably results in inefficiencies, shortages, and economic crises, as even the best intentioned politicians cannot know the most efficient use of resources.

In addition, the IMF violates basic constitutional and moral principles. The federal government has no constitutional authority to fund international institutions such as the IMF. Furthermore, Mr. Speaker, it is simply immoral to take money from hard-working Americans to support the economic schemes of politically-powerful special interests and third-world dictators.

In all my years in Congress, I have never been approached by a taxpayer asking that he or she be forced to provide more subsidies to Wall Street executives and foreign dictators. The only constituency for the IMF are the huge multinational banks and corporations. Big banks used IMF funds—taxpayer funds—to bail themselves out from billions in losses after the Asian financial crisis. Big corporations obtain lucrative contracts for a wide variety of construction projects funded with IMF loans. It's a familiar game in Washington, with corporate welfare disguised as compassion for the poor.

The Argentine debacle is yet further proof that the IMF was a bad idea from the very beginning—economically, constitutionally, and morally. The IMF is a relic of an era when power-hungry bureaucrats and deluded economists believed they could micro-manage the world's economy. Withdrawal from the IMF would benefit American taxpayers, as well as workers and consumers around the globe. I hope my colleagues will join me in working to protect the American taxpayer from underwriting the destruction of countries like Argentina, by cosponsoring my legislation to end America's support for the IMF.

STATEMENT REGARDING THE PRESIDENT'S BUDGET

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 27, 2002

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join with my colleagues in expressing my concern about the economic effects of the recently enacted tax cuts and how these tax cuts have affected our country's once sound economy.

I begin, Mr. Speaker, by asking my friends on the other side of the aisle, where has the surplus, the very same surplus that was the largest in the history of this great nation just 1 year ago, gone? Well, I will tell you where the surplus has gone. On June 7, 2001, Congress rammed through the so-called "Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act" that had an effect opposite of its specified purpose. For those whose memories escape them, the Administration ensured the tax cut program would be a powerful economic stimulant to a slowing economy, while leaving the Social Security trust fund and Medicare surplus in tact. Yet, according to CBO's most recent projections, within the last year the overall cumulative surplus has been reduced by \$4 trillion and now hovers at just \$1.6 trillion. According to the CBO, about 60 percent of that decline is due to the tax cuts.

Mr. Speaker, the facts are indisputable. However, some insist the down shift in the economy and the projected surplus is largely due to the nation's response to September 11, while CBO states the terrorist attacks contributed to only a small fraction of the deficit. Yes, September 11 was a tragic and unexpected event but it is because of unexpected or unforeseeable events why we, as a Congress, cannot draft intractable initiatives.

It was not too long ago that I remember campaigning across South Florida and people were asking about issues such as Social Security, Medicare, and prescription drugs. Now, due to the Administration's faltering tax program, citizens are no longer assured that the nation will have adequate means to address its current needs and the long run costs of paying Social Security and Medicare benefits. Thus, the solvency of Social Security has been reduced by 10 years at the very least, and our ability to expand Medicare coverage has been paralyzed.

And what about priorities such as building new schools? What about fixing our roads? Or what about paying off the national debt? As I mentioned, at the beginning of the 107th Congress this body was faced with a list of priorities that the American people wanted to address: education, prescription drugs, Social